

The School Board Corner

By Karen Zink, Hartwood District
March 2005

It is hard to believe that it is March already and the school board is in the middle of their annual budget process. As we strive to make decisions that are in the best interest of Stafford County Schools, your input is very important. If you have any comments, you can contact your School Board Member or feel free to speak at any of our scheduled board meetings. We will present the budget to the Board of Supervisors on March 1 and will hold a Joint Budget Work Session with them on March 15.

Parents of college-bound high school sophomores and juniors should mark their calendars for Thursday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Fredericksburg Area College Forum that will be talking on the subject, "Navigating the Selective College Admission Process." This will take place in the Lee Hall Ballroom at the University of Mary Washington. There will be a panel discussion and a question and answer session with college admission professionals from the University of Virginia, the University of Richmond, the College of William and Mary, and the University of Mary Washington.

We are currently in the process of developing considerations for the redistricting for our Southeast Middle School at the Grafton Village site, which will impact all of our middle schools. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Mr. John D. Bondurant at 658-6000. We are also in the process of naming the elementary school at Leeland Station that is scheduled to open in September 2005. If you would like to submit a name for consideration, please e-mail the principal, Ms. Roxie Cooper, at rcooper@staffordschools.net.

The Triennial Census will be conducted this year. This is when the school division counts every school-aged child living within the county. This number is used to distribute sales tax revenue to help fund school division budgets. For each child counted, Stafford County Public Schools will receive approximately \$2,100 over the next three years. Your family will receive the census form from the school. Please complete and return the form or you may go to our website at www.staffordschools.net and complete the form online.

It is very important for every household in the county to complete this form. Census workers will be hired to visit the addresses that have not returned the census form. It would be very helpful if you could encourage all of your neighbors, even those who do not have children or whose children are home-schooled or go to private schools, to complete the form. We would like to include as many of Stafford County children as possible in this census!

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